

REMARKS

Claims 56, 59-63, 66, 69, 72, and 73 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-55, 57, 58, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70, and 71 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Editorial revisions have been made in the remaining claims.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect group I, claims 56-60, with traverse. Applicants also provisionally elect the combination of SEQ ID NOS 19 to 105 of the Sequence Listing as a single combination of nucleic acid probes, with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 56 is the special technical feature common to all claims. Therefore, the claims have unity of invention.

Applicants further note that the Deneff et al. reference cited by the Examiner relates to microorganisms that degrade PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), and the PCBs are chemical substances different from PCE (perchloroethylene), etc. to which the present invention is directed.

Withdrawal of the restriction/election and examination of all claims is requested. An early and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &
LARSON, P.C.
P.O. Box 2902
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902
(612) 455-3800

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By: 

James A. Larson
Reg. No. 40,443
For Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
Customer No. 53148

DPM/JAL/gmd